



# **BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.**

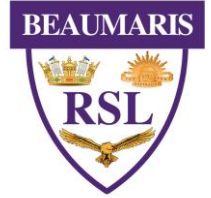
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## **FEBRUARY 2025 MEMBERS NEWS**



Enjoying the new deck and lounge

### **Dear Member**

What a wonderful summer it has been. Completion of major construction and procurement of furniture at our new home has been a wonderful milestone to achieve. Returning to our new HQ after the winter months from Black Rock Yacht Club has been a terrific relief. Seeing our beautifully crafted lounge with memorabilia display, fireplace and moveable walls was so exciting. This is not to mention the new deck, entry and upgraded dining/function room has made all the work extremely satisfying. Our new space sets us up for decades to come.

There is still more work to be done including hanging the selected honour boards and memorabilia of the Sub-Branch and BRSC. The agreed process for this was to engage Wilko Doehring the project Architect to assist both clubs in reviewing items and provide advice on which and where they should be displayed. This report is then considered by the building sub-committee and then sent to each Committee for endorsement. This type of work is very difficult and I do ask you consider the effort being made to ensure our new accommodation is fit for the future and meets the needs of both organisations.

Operationalising our day-to-day use of the facilities continues and we are very close to announcing our new membership offering. Already members are enjoying the new Wednesday night meal service which includes a discount to members and there will be more to come.

Our AGM is coming up in March and of course all our ANZAC activities will get going in April. There are a lot of opportunities to volunteer and I very much encourage you to do so.

Enjoy the news!

## Notice of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 7.30pm

It is that time of year for electing the executive positions made vacant. Our Sub-Branch has the below two out of the 4 executive positions up for re-election as we have a split 2-year tenure system to ensure continuity.

This year our President Shayne Benedict is stepping down after a 6 year tenure (an appropriate piece and occasion will follow on his contribution). There are also vacancies on the general committee, and it would be very encouraging if we could fill these.

-President                      Vacant  
 -Treasurer:                  Timothy Holden  
 -Vice President:              John Douglas OAM

The other 4 current committee members are Stephen Gage, Jane Lapa, Clarke Martin, and Andy Coogan  
 Our Secretary Gina Scott is half way through her 2-year term.

The role of Welfare Officer currently held by Peter Corfield and Appeals Officer held by Carolyn Strong are non-elected positions but appointed by the new committee on the night.

We will also be using the meeting to seek approval of several 10B rule and By-law changes that were ratified at the State Conference.

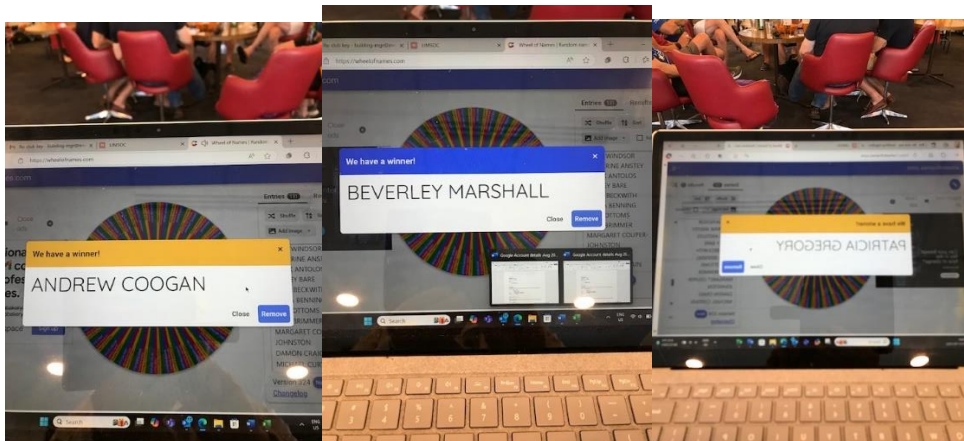
Nominations must be made in writing by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to our Secretary Gina Scott [beaumarisrsl@gmail.com](mailto:beaumarisrsl@gmail.com)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our President on the above contact details or any member of the committee on duty during Wednesday night Stand To's.

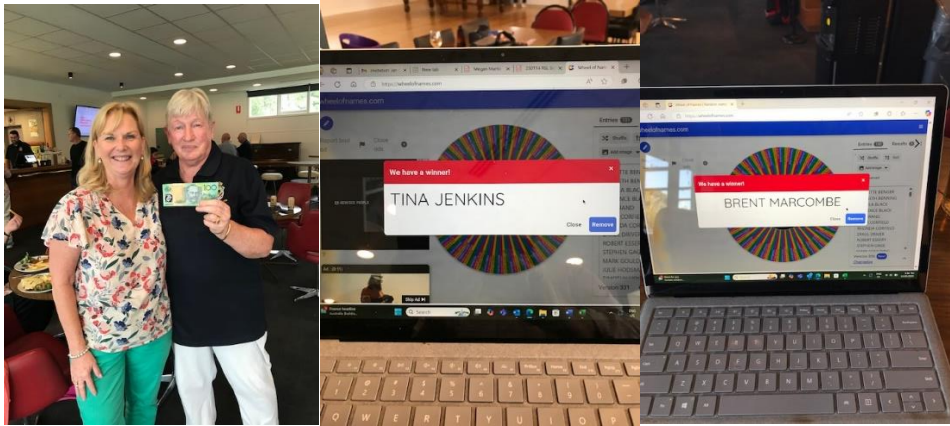
## Wednesday Night Stand T0 from 5pm Jackpots at 6.30pm

The Jackpot draws are a very popular fortnightly event and for the lucky winners very profitable!

So come on down, enjoy the RSL Vibe and be part of the rebuilding of our community.



It had to go! On the 18<sup>th</sup> of Dec it took 3 goes but Andy Coogan took out the major prize!



Rohnda was on hand to deliver the first prize of 2025 to Tina unfortunately Brent (BRSC President) had to duck out and missed out by just a few minutes in the first draw for Feb 2025.

With dinners now available it is a great night but remember, you must be in attendance to win!

Jackpots

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> May 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

We look forward to seeing you at our new home soon!

## Building Refurbishment Project



John Douglas OAM with the new cabinets, bookshelves and fire place.

As part of the building works a project was approved by the committee to identify, review and recommend selected items of our memorabilia for display. This enabled the final drawings of our display cabinets and walls to be built to accommodate as much of our

collection as possible. Wilko Doerhing our Architect was appointed to conduct this work which started in the Autumn of 2024 involving the inspection and photographing of our entire collection. Our club is not a museum however the display of such important items required Wilko engage a museum curator to assist in this task.

All this planning culminated in our Vice President and Commemorations Officer John Douglas OAM with assistance from Gina Scott Secretary to have the cabinets finally laid out. The current display is the first tranche and more work is planned to improve the look of the display. This work enabled our storage shed to be reorganised. Wilko with JD and Clarke Martin spent a productive afternoon re-shelving the remaining items, relocating the art work to the mezzanine storage and creating a working space for curation activities.

Over time we will be able to rotate the display, commemorate important events and highlight members contributions.

If you would like to get involved in this interesting part of the Sub-Branch, please get in touch with our President using the contacts below.

### **Hanging the honour Boards and Art Works**

Between the BRSC & the Sub-Branch we have more items than walls! To overcome this challenge Wilko was appointed to review all the space and items and provide a report with recommendations for the building Sub-Committee to review and then recommend up to both committee of management.

As you appreciate this is extremely sensitive work to ensure our new facility is positioned for the future and looking like a great place to be but also to ensure our history is not lost.

It is expected the final hanging will take place before ANZAC day after both committees complete the needed due diligence.

### **Remembrance Day 2024**



Remembrance Day Key Note Speaker Year 11 Student Jake Darker

With wonderful weather and the volunteers out early setting up the chairs, tables, wreaths and the sumptuous morning tea our service went extremely smoothly. Our Womens Auxiliary provide an invaluable support to these services along with John Douglas as MC and our

speakers. Of course the attendees make the day and it is something we are building each year.

Our Sub-Branch initiative with Beaumaris Secondary College invites a student to speak on 'What does Remembrance Day mean to you'. Previous speakers have provided inspiring thoughts on Australia's conflicts. This year was no different as the speech below demonstrates.

### **Remembrance day speech Jake Darker**

Good Morning/Afternoon, my name is Jake Darker, and I am a current year 11 at Beaumaris secondary college. When I was asked to speak here today, I was excited, but more anxious as today came closer. However, these nerves pale in comparison to those felt by the men and women who fought for our country.

Remembrance Day is a day to honour those who have died and suffered in wars, conflicts, and peace operations.

But what does Remembrance Day mean for me? To me it is a day where Australians come together to remember these men and women who gave their lives and time for strangers, their country and the future generations - like me - to have the ability to live a long, safe and free life, and to have the ability to do as they wish with their lives and to live it to the fullest. Since I was young, my parents have stressed the importance of today and ANZAC day as I have ancestors who fought in both the first and second world wars. Additionally, my dad studied Australian history when he was my age and my mum, whose grandfather, my great grandfather, was a prisoner of war in world war two.

James Draper, my great grandfather whose medals I am wearing today, was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 1911. He was enlisted in 1941 at the age of 30 and was a truck driver. James was reported missing on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1942 after the fall of Singapore, and it wasn't until a year later on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1943 he was declared a prisoner of war in Thailand and worked on the Burma-Thailand railway. James was a prisoner until the war ended, he was dispatched in 1945.

During his time in the camps, James met Leslie Baird, who kept scrappy notes during his imprisonment, hidden in the false bottom of his water bottle. Years later he pieced together these scraps into a very readable diary, a copy of which is available in the Research Centre of the Australian War Memorial.

I would like to read sections of this diary today containing my Great Grandfather James.

In November of 1942 Les writes of him and James hiding in the Jungle to have a bludge, and that for Jims birthdays they nicked off from work and had eggs on toast from the money James got for selling his watch.

In May of 1943 James and Les were picked to go driving trucks, there were not enough trucks, so Jim and Les decided to help in the kitchen getting fire wood, yet all they wanted to do was go for a swim. They and 5 others shifted into another hut of their own, they were happy as there were no bugs, good food, plenty of meat and pig. They also pinched a 4-gallon tin of cooking oil.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1945 they were on parade and were told that the war was over. And a month later they were at Kashu Mountain waiting to be flown back home to Australia to see their families

James and Leslie weren't always together, as they were moved around throughout the years, however, when they were together, without fail, their friendship overpowered the hardships. It is the mateship and bravery of these men and the men who fought for what we see today that means so much to me. I never met James, but I feel extremely close with him as I stand before you today wearing his medals and telling his story. A story that I will cherish and pass

down. As I go forward with life, I try to do so with generosity, bravery, kindness, and mateship that Australians are known for around the world.

Thank you.

### **Centenary Celebration for Castlefield Estate 11am Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

After World War 1 housing as it is today was a major issue. Estates were created across the country to provide the much needed housing for Returned Servicemen. Felicity Frederico OAM has led the organisation of a suitable commemoration and celebration resulting in attendance will be Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria. The Senior Naval Officer of Victoria and Captain of HMAS CERBERUS, Captain Ben Favelle, RAN 3 GOC Victoria Barracks MAJGEN Jason Blain AIRCDRE David Strong, RAAF Natilie Suleyman, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Victoria.

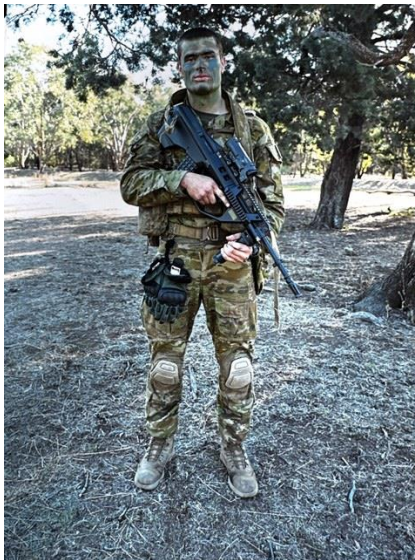
RAN Band Melbourne from HMAS CERBERUS will be attending and performing with the Army providing a Catafalque Party. Dress is casual clothes, however Felicity and for those with medals, to be worn with Jacket.

Where: Castlefield Reserve Cnr Ludstone St & Kingston St Hampton

When: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 10.45 for 11am

Dress: Casual (Jackets and Tie for Medals)

### **One day a civie next a grunt**



Archie receiving his Beaumaris RSL Letter of congratulations on being accepted to the Army May 2024



Basic training and Passing Out Parade. Winning the shield with his mates.

For those present in May 2024 for the customary letter of congratulations ceremony it only seems like yesterday we met a young Beaumaris lad about to leave for the Army. For Archie so much has changed and so many experiences and friendships made. As with all our local recruits we love to follow their service and always have the door open to them (membership is free for all currently serving members). If you know someone locally who is entering the forces please let us know.

## ANZAC 2025



We are gearing up for our major commemorative and appeals work for April. Our March and Service will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April and our annual Football Lunch and match on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. With our new home now established we are also partnering the BRSC with an ANZAC Day event that aims to reach out to new generations.

This year we are delighted to be able to provide Beaumaris RSL ANZAC Day football strips for the Beaumaris Sharks Female, Reserve and Senior sides. These strips are expected to be used for 5 seasons. This means over a 1000 young local people will be directly engaged with the Beauy RSL. These 3 teams will be playing a game on the day. For each game we are also providing the inaugural Frank Read Medal to be given to the player judged as the best mate on field.

Mateship is part of the Australian Defence Forces DNA and has been commemorated through the story telling of Simpson and his donkey at Gallipoli, evacuating wounded on the Kokoda Track in New Guinea and of course the Prisoners of War on the Burma Railway. Frank was one of those Prisoners and after surviving the war helped establish the Beaumaris RSL and Beaumaris Football club.

We hope you can support the Appeal as a volunteer, be part of our March and Service, patronise our football lunch/game or come along to the festivities of ANZAC Day at our new home.

### **ANZAC Appeal**

Manning the stall at the concourse and Metro Black Rock is a lovely way to both contribute to Veterans and enjoy meeting and hearing the stories of our local residents. The stalls will be operating from the 10<sup>th</sup> April till the 24<sup>th</sup> April and we need the roster filled to make this year another successful. Time slots are for 2 or 3 hours starting at 9.00am.

If you can help please contact:

Rhonda Corfield, Appeals Roster Co-Ordinator on 0429 647 481 Roster

### **Welfare Report**

Unfortunately we have lost a valued supporter recently, John Moor passed away after a short illness in February. John will be remembered for his 'Irish Wit' and his love for a Pint of Guinness. R.I.P. John.

Our Valued Member and President of The Woman's Auxiliary, Mairi McIntosh, underwent hip surgery today, February 18, in Linacre Hospital, we wish Mairi All The Best for a speedy recovery.

Our Retired Reverend Bill Pugh with his Wife Lesley have settled into their new abode, Mercy Fernhill Road, Sandringham. Both are looking forward to attending our ANZAC Commemoration on Easter Sunday.

Whilst on the subject of our ANZAC Commemoration, if any Veteran or their partner would like to participate in The March, transported in a Vintage Car, please let me know. Bruce Adams is currently in The Epworth for some rest and attention. If anyone would like more information on Bruce, please let me know.

In addition to being a Veteran Member of the RSL, Bruce is also a Member of Melbourne Legacy ( a Legatee).

It appears we have 'lost contact' with one of our Senior Members, Norma Hilet, if anyone can shed light on Norma's current 'abode', please let me know.

Peter Corfield  
Tel 0417351493  
Welfare Officer

### **Ceremony to commemorate the end of hostilities at ANZAC Cove & Suvla Bay, Türkiye.**

Wreath laying by the Friends of Gallipoli.

Date: Friday 20 December 2024.

Location: The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

Report by Paul Maple

On Behalf of Beaumaris RSL, I attended the wreath laying ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance on 20 December 2024. This was the 109th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities when the guns fell silent in the ANZAC Sector at Gallipoli in the early hours of the 20th of December 1915. After nearly nine months of fighting, the last of the ANZAC troops evacuated the peninsular. They were relieved to be going but also sad that their efforts and losses were for nothing. The hardest part was leaving their dead comrades behind. The Turkish forces were also grateful that the fighting was at last over. Now they could mourn the many thousands of their countrymen who had perished defending their homeland.

Guests at the ceremony were

The Hon. Kelvin Thompson, Chairman of the Friends of Gallipoli

Dr John Basarin OAM of the Friends of Gallipoli

Brigadier Nick Jans AM

Jayne John Deitch reading a note from Brigadier Commander Col. Anthill



Mr Dogan Isik, Consul-General. Republic of Türkiye  
Mr Michael Bennett Grandson of Sir John Monash.  
Captain Ainsley Morthorpe, CSM RAN  
Maj. General Jeffrey Rosenfeld AC OBE  
RSL Victoria





Whilst numbers were down from previous years, there was about 30 people in attendance including some people of Turkish descent.

There were several speeches including from the Consul-General, Republic of Türkiye who acknowledged the service and sacrifice of the ANZAC at Gallipoli and quoted Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's words regarding reconciliation between the Allies and Türkiye.

Also, Michael Bennett (Grandson of Sir John Monash) spoke. He believed that not only would Sir John Monash be proud of the Shrine of Remembrance and its place in Victoria's commemoration. He also believed that Monash would be happy that the ANZACs and the Turks have acknowledged each other's service and sacrifice. The Turks are now part of the ANZAC's traditions and commemoration.

Then there was wreath laying and the National Anthems of New Zealand, Türkiye and Australia were sung.

Following the service, all were invited to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a chat.

### **Why Gallipoli**

The purpose for the military action was an attempt to take Germany's ally, the Ottomans, out of the war so that a warm sea route could be opened across the Black Sea to supply Russia's large but poorly equipped armies.

To achieve this the heavily fortified guns that protected the Dardanelles Straits had to be silenced which would allow the British & French navies to access the Sea of Marmara and capture Istanbul. The navies began their attack in February 1915 but with no sense of urgency. The Ottoman's outer defences were slowly neutralised, so in early March 1915, a final push was made to get through.

Shortly into the offensive, the French battleship *Bouvet* struck a mine, sinking in minutes, with the death of at least 650 sailors, the rest of the fleet was thrown into disarray. This resulted in more Allied ships blundering into the minefields. With 3 battleships sunk and 3 badly damaged and more than 700 sailors killed, the naval attack was abandoned. On 23 March, John de Robeck, commander of the fleet, advised that to clear the Dardanelles a land attack would be required to neutralise the Turkish artillery positions overlooking the straits so he could then remove the mines.

The British War Cabinet still wanted a success at the Dardanelles, so plans were made to have the army land on the peninsular to take out the artillery.

The landing was set for 25 April 1915. There were three sites chosen:

- Cape Helles, which was to be a mainly British landing,
- at Kum Kale on the Asiatic shore, a French regiment would land at the same time, to distract Ottoman artillery on the Asiatic shore, confusing the Ottoman command and delaying the dispatch of reinforcements from the Asiatic shore to Gallipoli, before withdrawing to join the main landings at Cape Helles,
- and the ANZAC's would make a surprise landing at Gaba Tepe.

Gallipoli was the first major commitment of the ANZAC troops of WW1, and though the campaign would ultimately prove a bloody failure and leave more than 8,000 Australians dead, it marked the beginning of the Anzac legend.

Sir William Deane, Governor-General of Australia on Anzac Day 1999 said that "Anzac is not merely about loss. It is about courage, and endurance, and duty, and love of country, and mateship, and good humour and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds."

The most successful operation of the campaign was the eventual Allied evacuation. In the Anzac Cove sector this ended on 19–20 December 1915 and was conducted under a well-planned deception operation.

### **Decision to evacuate.**

On 13 November 1915 Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, came to see the Anzac Cove positions for himself. War correspondent Charles Bean reported that Kitchener said to the men that

gathered around him, 'The King has asked me to tell you how splendidly he thinks you have done, you have done splendidly, better, even, than I thought you would.'

Kitchener spent just over two hours at Anzac Cove surveying the Turkish line from Australian trenches inland of the Sphinx and at Lone Pine. After another two days consulting with senior commanders, he recommended to the British War Cabinet to evacuate Gallipoli (Anzac Cove, Suvla and Helles).

In Kitchener's opinion, little progress could be made against the strengthening Turkish trenches without significant reinforcements and artillery resources. This was especially so at Anzac Cove where another surprise attack, such as the August Offensive, was virtually impossible. Moreover, local commanders were extremely worried about the problems of supplying Gallipoli throughout the winter with its many severe storms.

### **Plan for a quiet withdrawal**

After much discussion, they finally decided to end the campaign. Unknown to the British war office, many senior officers including the commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, General [Sir Charles Monro](#), had anticipated this decision and had already started drawing up plans for the evacuation. There was a view that any evacuation would result in heavy casualties of at least 30%.

At Anzac Cove, an Australian staff officer, Lieutenant-Colonel [Charles Brudenell White](#), devised a plan to gradually withdraw men and equipment while convincing the Turks that everything was normal. The troops carried out 'silent stunts' to trick the Turks. Nearly all firing from Anzac Cove ceased for a period of time to make the enemy think winter preparations were underway. At the end of the stunt, there would be irregular rifle and artillery fire to suppress any Turk who might come forward thinking that the trenches had been abandoned. Hopefully, the enemy would not interpret these silences as a withdrawal. A lot of equipment was taken away at night, but some material was still brought ashore at the Anzac Cove and North Beach piers during the day to maintain the appearance of normal operations. According to the evacuation schedule, the troops would leave Anzac Cove in three stages.

### **First and second stages**

The 'preliminary stage' was set in motion while awaiting approval from London. In these early days, the Allies only removed enough men and equipment to make it look to the Turks as though a garrison was preparing for a defensive winter campaign. After receiving Cabinet approval, the 'intermediate' stage commenced. Now the Allies reduced the number of soldiers on Anzac Cove to a point where they could still hold off a major Turkish attack for about one week.

During the first two stages, it was planned that the Anzac Cove garrison be reduced from 41,000 to 29,000 troops.

### **Final stage**

On 17 December, just two days before the final evacuation, a [famous cricket game at Shell Green](#) was played while Turkish shells passed overhead. By 18 December, at the end of the second stage, only 20,277 soldiers were left at Anzac Cove. The last AIF troops were withdrawn over two nights in the 'final' evacuation - 18 to 19 December and 19 to 20 December 1915, mainly from North Beach piers.

A small fire broke out in the supply dump at 1am on 18 December at North Beach. This threatened to alert the Turks to the withdrawal in progress but fortunately nothing happened. Many Australians spent their final moments on Anzac Cove, at North Beach, where they

caught their last glimpses in the dark of the Sari Bair Range as they pulled away from the piers.

Although much equipment was removed from Anzac Cove, a great deal, especially foodstuffs, was left behind or destroyed.

### **Reactions to the evacuation**

The objectives of the first two stages were kept secret from all but those who needed to know. It was not until the second week in December that the ordinary soldiers realised that a full-scale evacuation was in progress. Men's reactions varied, but there was a common sorrow at the thought of leaving behind their dead comrades.

Bean tells us their reaction to the news of the evacuation: "For days after the breaking of the news there were never absent from the cemeteries, men by themselves, or in twos and threes, erecting new crosses or tenderly 'tidying-up' the grave of a friend. This was by far the deepest regret of the troops." As he left, Padre Walter Dexter went through the cemeteries and gullies scattering silver wattle seed: "If we have to leave here, I intend that a bit of Australia shall be here."

### **Last troops to leave Anzac**

Company Sergeant Major Joe Gasparich, Auckland Infantry Battalion, was among the last to depart in the early hours of 20 December: "I came down - I got off my perch (the firing step), I walked through the trench and the floor of the trench was frozen hard ... and when I brought my feet down they echoed right through the trench, down the gully, right down, and you could hear this echo running ahead ... Talk about empty, I didn't see a soul ... It was a lonely feeling."

By 4:00am, a handful of men were left at North Beach. Among these was the commander of the 'Rear Party', Colonel John Paton, from Waratah, Sydney. At 4:10am, Paton, having waited ten minutes for any last ANZAC straggler, declared the evacuation complete and the last steamboat sailed off.

The day before, as he waited to go, Company Quarter Master Sergeant A L Guppy, 14th Battalion, of Benalla, Victoria, confided his feelings in verse to his diary:

Not only muffled is our tread  
To cheat the foe,  
We fear to rouse our honoured dead  
To hear us go.  
Sleep sound, old friends- the keenest smart  
Which, more than failure, wounds the heart,  
Is thus to leave you- thus to part,  
Comrades, farewell!

The ANZACs had successfully left Gallipoli with hardly an injury. Anzac Cove and Suvla were deserted. On the night of 8 January 1916, the British left Helles; the Gallipoli campaign was over.

From the point of view of the British Empire and dominion forces on Gallipoli, no operation was so successfully carried out as the evacuation from 8 to 20 December 1915.

### **Navy involvement at Gallipoli**

The whole venture was only possible because of the Navies of Britain, France, Australia.

For it was the navy that started the attack to take out the Ottoman Empire but were unable to breach the many defences of the Dardanelles.

The Navy was then responsible for transporting the men and equipment to the Dardanelles, then supported the troops on the ground with constant bombardments of the Ottoman position throughout the campaign. They also had to keep the forces there supplied with food, water, ammunition, replacement weapons, wood, shovels, pickaxe, medical needs, and to bring in replacement personnel and to evacuate sick and injured men. Finally, when the decision was made, it was the Navy's job to evacuate all the men and as much of their equipment and stores without giving away the evacuation.

Meanwhile at Sulva Bay the Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train (RANBT), which was formed in February 1915 and comprised members of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, supported the British landing at Suvla Bay. Early on 7 August 1915 the RANBT landed, under fire at Suvla Bay and quickly constructed a pontoon pier to better move supplies and reinforcements ashore.

The RANBT:

- built and maintained wharves and piers
- unloaded stores from lighters
- controlled the supply of fresh water to frontline troops
- built a light railway for stores movement
- carried out repairs in an open-air workshop.

They were under frequent enemy artillery fire and occasional air raids. During the five months at Suvla Bay, enemy action killed two RANBT men and wounded more than thirty. Many became sick in the unsanitary conditions, with two men dying of illness.

The Train was the last Australian unit to leave the Gallipoli Peninsula, a party of fifty men under Sub-Lieutenant Charles Hicks was left behind to oversee the evacuation of the British forces. They left at 4.30am, on 20 December.

## **AWARDS**

Lieutenant Commander Bracegirdle was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and mentioned in dispatches on three separate occasions. Sixteen of his men were also mentioned in dispatches and several others went on to distinguish themselves in the AIF and RAN winning several bravery awards.

This unit was regarded as receiving the most decoration of any naval unit during WW1.

## **AE2 Submarine**

The Australian submarine [HMAS AE2](#) (Lieutenant Commander [Henry Stoker](#)) was the first allied vessel to penetrate the Dardanelles Straits on the night of 24/25 April and enter the [Sea of Marmara](#). *AE2* began their advanced toward the Sea of Marmara at 08:30. Stoker decided to rest the boat on the seabed until nightfall. At around 9:00 p.m., *AE2* surfaced to recharge batteries and sent a wireless report to the fleet. Stoker was ordered to "generally run amok" and, with no enemies in sight, he sailed into the Sea of Marmara, where *AE2* cruised for five days to give the impression of greater numbers and made several attacks against Ottoman ships. However, most of these attacks failed because of mechanical problems with the torpedoes.

*AE2* was the only RAN vessel lost to enemy action during WW1. The wreck of *AE2* was found in 1998. After another expedition in 2008, the Australian and Turkish Governments

decided to leave the boat in place as a memorial site. To preserve the boat, sacrificial anodes have been placed on the hull to stop further corrosion.

### **Forces and Casualties at Gallipoli**

The Gallipoli campaign resulted in heavy casualties on both sides, with approximately 250,000 Allied and Ottoman soldiers wounded or killed. The shared suffering and respect that developed between the opposing forces has become a powerful symbol of reconciliation and peace. The words of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1934, expressing compassion for the fallen Allied soldiers, resonate deeply in the commemorations held each year.

#### **The British and allies' forces**

Believed to have had between 489,000–550,000 forces

- 345,000 British (including Irish, Indians and Newfoundlanders)
- 79,000 French
- 50,000 Australians
- 15,000 New Zealanders
- 2,000 civilian labourers

#### **CAUSALTIES**

**British Empire:** 198,340 (31,389 killed, including at least 60 sailors, 9,708 missing and POW, 78,749 wounded & 78,494 evacuated sick).

**France:** 9,000 killed & missing including at least 650 sailors, 18,000 wounded, 20,000 evacuated sick.

**Australia:** 8,709 killed, 18,500 wounded,

**New Zealand:** 3,431 killed, 4,140 wounded

**Total Casualties:** 300,000 of which there was 56,707 dead

#### **The Ottoman and Germany forces**

It has been estimated at between 250,000-315,500 men with about 700 Germans, plus an unknown number of civilians that lived on the peninsular and directly supported their countrymen during the invasion.

#### **CAUSALTIES**

**Ottoman Empire:** 255,268 (56,643 killed, 97,007 wounded or injured, 11,178 missing or POW, 69,440 evacuated sick and at least 21,000 died of disease)

Total: 255,268 of which there was 77,643 dead plus an unknown number of civilians.

I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and if you ever want a chat or have an idea, please do not hesitate to call me or any of the team.

Shayne Benedict, President, Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch  
0418 318 862

Please contact Jane Lapa our membership officer with any enquiries.

Phone 0415 935 513 or email [jane.lapa@icloud.com](mailto:jane.lapa@icloud.com)

If you have any feedback or an item you would like to include in the newsletter, please email it through to [beaumarisrsl@gmail.com](mailto:beaumarisrsl@gmail.com)